

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'  
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

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*“When we experience trying moments, then is the time for us to avail ourselves of that great privilege of calling upon the Lord for strength and understanding, intelligence and grace, by which we can overcome the weakness of the flesh against which we have to make a continual warfare.”—LORENZO SNOW*

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THE HERITAGE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

(THE Lord has revealed in this day, some of the teachings given to Moses. We find them in the Pearl of Great Price. We learn from these writings of Moses that under the direction of His Father, Jesus Christ created this earth. No doubt others helped Him, but it was Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who, under the direction of His Father, came down and organized matter and made this planet, so that it might be inhabited by the children of God. Since, therefore, Jesus Christ formed the earth, under the commandment of His Father, He surely is competent to speak in relation to its destiny, and to the destiny of its inhabitants.)

(He has declared, by His own voice and by revelation to His servants, the prophets, that we are living in the last days. When we speak of the last days, we do not mean that this is the end of the earth, that it shall cease presently to exist; but that we are living in that period of time known as the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, in which the Father has promised to gather all things together in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in the day when unrighteousness shall cease, when wickedness shall no longer be found on the face of the earth; and when this earth shall be turned over, according to the promise the Lord made to Daniel the Prophet, to the Saints of the Most High, who shall possess it forever and ever.)

(The days of this earth's present condition in its scenes of

wickedness, of crime, of greed, when Satan rules, are drawing to their close. Before many days shall pass, Satan shall be bound, that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men. Christ shall come to take possession of the earth, since it belongs to Him, and He is the rightful ruler. We are promised that He shall reign upon the earth for a thousand years, but when that time comes, only the righteous, the God-fearing, the humble, the meek, shall inherit the earth.

This earth, since its fall, must pass through three distinct stages. We are in one of those stages now. In this mortal condition, which has continued since the days of Adam until now, wickedness has prevailed on the earth. Satan has had sway. He has usurped authority and found favour with men. Through his power, his cunning and craftiness, he has won mankind very largely over to his side.

But this condition, as I have said, is drawing to its close. The day is near at hand when this earth itself shall be changed, when righteousness shall prevail, and wickedness cease upon its face. Then, for one thousand years, the earth shall rest; and that will be the second stage in the history of this planet since man was placed upon it.)

#### WHEN SHALL THE EARTH REST?

I want to read to you another saying from an ancient scripture, but a scripture which to us is modern, because it has come into our possession through revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith. These are the words of the Lord, or rather, a conversation between the Lord and Enoch of old :

And it came to pass that Enoch cried unto the Lord, saying: When the Son of Man cometh in the flesh, shall the earth rest? I pray thee, show me these things.

And the Lord said unto Enoch: Look, and he looked and beheld the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, after the manner of men; . . .

And again Enoch wept and cried unto the Lord, saying: When shall the earth rest?

And Enoch beheld the Son of Man ascend up unto the Father; and he called unto the Lord, saying: Wilt thou not come again upon the earth? Forasmuch as thou art God, and I know thee, and thou hast sworn unto me, and commanded me that I should ask in the name of thine Only Begotten; thou hast made me, and given unto me a right to thy throne, and not of myself, but through thine own grace; wherefore, I ask thee if thou wilt not come again on the earth.

And the Lord said unto Enoch: As I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfil the oath which I have made unto you concerning the children of Noah;

And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, into a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

And the Lord said unto Enoch: Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there, and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other;

And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest.

And it came to pass that Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of Man, in the last days, to dwell on the earth in righteousness for the space of a thousand years;

But before that day he saw great tribulations among the wicked; and he also saw the sea, that it was troubled, and men's hearts failing them, looking forth with fear for the judgments of the Almighty God, which should come upon the wicked.

And the Lord showed Enoch all things, even unto the end of the world; and he saw the day of the righteous, the hour of their redemption; and received a fulness of joy.

(The Lord talked to His ancient prophet, in relation to the resting of the earth, its redemption from wickedness, and its possession by the meek, who shall eventually inherit it.)

Now, the third stage in the history of this world, yet future, shall be after a short season following this thousand years, when wickedness shall again prevail. Then shall Michael gather his armies together, and Lucifer shall gather his armies together, and the great and last battle shall be fought, and the earth shall be cleaved of all unrighteousness. The graves shall be opened for all those who are not worthy to receive an exaltation or a resurrection at the coming of Christ, because of their unworthiness, their uncleanness, their lack of faith, and unwillingness to heed the counsels of the Lord; they shall come forth from their graves. Then the earth shall pass away; and again it shall be renewed or glorified, and become a celestial body. In that condition it shall continue forever as the inheritance of the Saints, or the meek, who shall always possess it.)

#### EVERLASTING INHERITANCES

(The Lord gave the promise to Abraham that He should have Palestine, or the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession. Yet, as Stephen said at the time of his martyrdom, Abraham never received as much as a foot of it as a possession while he lived. Then what did the Lord mean in making a promise to Abraham

of that kind, giving him that portion of the earth as an everlasting possession for himself and his posterity, the righteous part of it, forever? Simply this, that the time would eventually come, after the resurrection from the dead, when Abraham and his children who have been faithful in the keeping of the commandments of the Lord, should possess that land, and they shall also spread forth as far as it is necessary for them to receive an inheritance.

The Lord gave this land upon which we dwell, America, as an everlasting possession to Joseph, the son of Jacob. His posterity, when cleansed from sin, and when they come forth in the resurrection, shall inherit this part of the earth. This land shall be theirs forever.

The Lord gave this land also to others at an earlier date, the Jaredites, and they too, who are righteous among them, shall possess it forever.

You will recall that in my reading from the Book of Moses, in the Pearl of Great Price, the Lord promised Enoch that in the time when the earth shall rest, when the graves shall be opened and the righteous shall come forth, that he too, with his city, shall again be restored. They shall come back, and they shall fall upon the necks of those who are righteous who remain, and who live here at the time of this cleansing, and shall rejoice with them, and they shall weep together in joy and peace and satisfaction in the blessings of the Lord.

So from these scriptures to which I have made reference, we discover that the earth is destined to become the abode of the meek of the earth.

#### THE DESTINY OF THE EARTH

The Lord has given us some very definite information in modern revelation, in regard to the destiny of this earth—not the destiny which is marked out for it by ungodly men, but that destiny which He marked out for it before the foundations of it were laid.)

I want to read to you now, one or two statements in these modern revelations :

Wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that they shall be gathered in unto one place upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts and be prepared in all things against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked. (That is, Israel should be gathered.)

For the hour is nigh and the day soon at hand when the earth is ripe ; and all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble ; and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth ;

For the hour is nigh, and that which was spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled ; for as they spoke so shall it come to pass ;

For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with

all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand.

And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, and it hath gone forth in a firm decree, by the will of the Father, that mine apostles, the Twelve which were with me in my ministry at Jerusalem, shall stand at my right hand at the day of my coming in a pillar of fire, being clothed with robes of righteousness, with crowns upon their heads, in glory even as I am, to judge the whole house of Israel, even as many as have loved me and kept my commandments, and none else.

For a trump shall sound both long and loud, even as upon Mount Sinai, and all the earth shall quake, and they shall come forth yea, even the dead which died in me, to receive a crown of righteousness, and to be clothed upon, even as I am, to be with me, that we may be one.

But, behold, I say unto you that before this great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and there shall be greater signs in heaven above and in the earth beneath; . . .

And again, verily, verily, I say unto you that when the thousand years are ended, and men again begin to deny their God, then will I spare the earth but for a little season;

And the end shall come, and the heaven and the earth shall be consumed and pass away, and there shall be a new heaven and a new earth.

For all old things shall pass away, and all things shall become new, even the heaven and the earth, and all the fulness thereof, both men and beasts, and the fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea;

And not one hair, neither mote, shall be lost, for it is the workmanship of mine hand.

#### TO BE SANCTIFIED AND REDEEMED

Then in another revelation, the Lord has this to say :

And the spirit and the body are the soul of man.

And the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul.

And the redemption of the soul is through him that quickeneth all things, in whose bosom it is decreed that the poor and the meek of the earth shall inherit it.

Therefore, it must needs be sanctified from all unrighteousness, that it may be prepared for the celestial glory ;

For after it hath filled the measure of its creation, it shall be crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father ;

That bodies who are of the celestial kingdom may possess it for ever and ever ; for, for this intent was it made and created, and for this intent are they sanctified.

And they who are not sanctified through the law which I have given unto you, even the law of Christ, must inherit another kingdom, even that of a terrestrial kingdom, or that of a telestial kingdom.

Then again, in this same revelation, the Lord continues :

And again, verily I say unto you, the earth abideth the law of a celestial kingdom, for it filleth the measure of its creation, and transgresseth not the law—

Wherefore, it shall be sanctified ; yea, notwithstanding it shall die, it

shall be quickened again, and shall abide the power by which it is quickened, and the righteous shall inherit it.

For notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again, a spiritual body.

So we see from this that (the Lord has in mind, in the near future, changing the earth—not that final celestial change of which I have just read, but a change in which this earth shall be renewed.

In one of the Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we say that “we believe that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.”

#### CONDITIONS DURING THE MILLENNIUM

That time is near at hand. When that day comes, wickedness, as I have shown from these passages of scripture, must cease upon the face of the earth. The earth is going to be cleansed by fire. Wickedness shall be destroyed. If you want more light upon this coming cleansing, I refer you to the twenty-fourth chapter of Isaiah, and to the third and fourth chapters of Malachi the prophet. Read what they have to say. The wicked shall be as stubble, when Christ comes, and the Saints come with Him in their glory and in their might, when their graves are opened. Naturally, wickedness could not endure upon this earth during this thousand years of righteousness. Therefore, all those who have been ungodly, who have been unclean, who have loved this earth more than they have loved the kingdom of God, must perish.

That does not mean that there will not be people left upon the earth, scattered upon its face, who are not members of the Church of Jesus Christ; for the Lord will spare all those who have been clean and honourable, who have lived according to the best light they had, although they did not receive the Gospel. Even the heathen nations, we are told, shall be redeemed, and they shall have part in the first resurrection—they who have died without law. So the Lord is going to be merciful to these people. They shall continue upon the face of the earth during the Millennium. But the unrighteous, those who have loved and made a lie, the sorcerers, the adulterers, those who indulge in murder, in theft, in all manner of wickedness, cannot stand; because when this change comes upon the earth, there shall also come a change upon mankind, and they who remain shall live in the government of God. Death shall be removed; that is to say, men shall not die until they are old. In that day there will be no sickness. Infants shall not pass away, and every individual born into the world shall have the privilege of growing to full maturity, and all will live until they are one hundred years old. Then they shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye to immortality. We find this

prophecy in the sixty-fifth chapter of Isaiah and in the one hundred and first section of the Doctrine and Covenants, and in other scriptures. So under those conditions, righteousness must prevail.

Then for a thousand years the meek shall have possession of the earth, and they shall rejoice in it. We are told that their children shall grow up as calves in the stall unto righteousness. Satan shall not have power to tempt men during all that period of years when the earth shall rest.

What a glorious thought it is that this earth is to be the final abode of the righteous, that they shall dwell here when this earth becomes a celestial body; because it is prepared for that very purpose, that the righteous, they of a celestial spirit, may possess it forever and forever.)

I want to read to you a portion of the discourse from one of the Apostles of the Church who spoke from this stand many years ago, Elder Orson Pratt. He said:

It is the meek only who shall receive the promised inheritance. They are the lawful heirs. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth," was the promise of the great Redeemer. But who are the meek? By what peculiarities are they distinguished from other men? There must be some qualities about them far superior to the generality of mankind, or they would not become the exclusive heirs of the new earth. The law of meekness includes all the laws of the Gospel, with its ordinances and blessings, Priesthood and powers, through obedience to which mankind becomes justified, sanctified, purified and glorified. Such are the meek of the earth, and none others.

Different portions of the earth have been pointed out by the Almighty, from time to time, to His children as their everlasting inheritance. An instance: Abraham and his posterity who were worthy were promised Palestine. Moab and Ammon, the children of righteous Lot, were promised a portion not far from the boundaries of the twelve tribes.

The meek among the Jaredites together with the remnant of the tribe of Joseph, were promised the great western continent. The righteous of all nations, who shall in the dispensation be gathered to that land, will receive their inheritance, in common with the meek who formerly sojourned in the land.

In the resurrection, the meek of all ages and nations will be restored to their portion of the earth, previously promised them; and thus all the different portions of the earth have been and will be disposed of to the lawful heirs; while those who cannot prove their heirship to be legal, or who cannot prove that they have received any portion on the earth, by promise, will be cast out into some other kingdom or world.

*(Continued on page 250)*

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"THE people of the earth have departed from the plan of salvation which was taught by Jesus Christ and His Apostles, and the opinions of men have been introduced instead of the word of God."—CHARLES W. PENROSE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1931

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EDITORIAL

“BOOK OF TESTIMONIES”

HOW PRECIOUS are the testimonies of holy men of old! Every fragmentary record of their utterances becomes precious. Millions of lives have been guided by that which they said, they of old who were moved upon by the Holy Ghost.

How precious to us, who have received the restored Gospel, are the testimonies of the men of this dispensation, who have spoken and who speak, even as those of old, by the power and influence that proceeds from the presence of God! The words of the Past echo through the changing centuries; but those of the Present are in our language, clear to our understandings. Priceless are the words of a living Prophet.

Two of our brethren, with these thoughts in mind, have published a Book of Testimonies, being testimonies of the divinity of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by its leaders. The book contains forceful, inspiring testimonies from one hundred and eight of the leaders of the restored Church of Christ. They are brief and to the point. The book is one that may be read, laid down and taken up again. It will always refresh the reader.

Each testimony is accompanied by a clear engraving of the person testifying. There are also thirty full page illustrations of places and scenes notable in Church history, many of them rare. Text and pictures are printed on calendered, heavy paper, and attractively bound.

This delightful book of three hundred and seven pages, sold at the bare cost of production, would be a valuable part of every Latter-day Saint home.

The compilers, to whom the preparation of this volume has been a labour of love, are Joseph E. Cardon, President of the Cache Stake of Zion, who has spent his entire mature life in the home or foreign ministry of the Church, and Samuel O. Bennion, President of the Central States Mission, whose life-long service to the Church includes more than a quarter of a century of foreign missionary labours.—W.

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MIDSUMMER CELEBRATIONS

IT HAS BECOME the custom in several missions to hold annual branch or district gatherings or outings towards the end of July or early in August. In most countries, there is a legal holiday



about that time of the year which is used for these occasions. This practice is very commendable and has been encouraged by the Church.

It is suggested that these celebrations partake of the nature of celebrations of the coming of the Gospel to the European lands. In that sense they become pioneer celebrations.

It was on July 20th, 1837, that the first part of Latter-day Saint missionaries landed at Liverpool, England. On Sunday, July 30th, 1837, the first baptisms were performed. By a coincidence, it was also in July, on the 24th day, 1847, that the Latter-day Saint pioneers entered the Great Salt Lake Valley to begin their work of reclamation and establishing a commonwealth among the Rocky Mountains.

Our European Midsummer festivals might well be called "Pioneer Celebrations," that is, gatherings celebrating the beginning of the Lord's work in the European and other lands.—W.

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## FAR-REACHING EFFECTS

THE prayer of a youth, Joseph Smith, over one hundred years ago, led to the opening of this Gospel dispensation. This "marvelous work and a wonder" started from a humble beginning, indeed. A tract picked up in the street by a young Englishman three-quarters of a century ago, led to the conversion of Charles W. Penrose, who, as he grew in the Gospel, became one of its ablest defenders and expounders.

The effects of small things are often far-reaching.

One of the more-than two million people who attended the Latter-day Saint Word of Wisdom exhibit at the International Hygiene Exposition held in Dresden, Germany, last summer, was Major Dr. Giovanni Perilli, of the Italian Military Hospital at Rome.

The Major Doctor was astounded with the statistics of this "Word of Wisdom" group of people, who made hygiene and clean living a part of their religion as much as they did spiritual health. Could such length of life, birth rate, death rate and immunity from the diseases of earth be possible? he thought. The facts were convincing.

Upon returning to Rome, he pondered over this one exhibit. How could such results be obtained? He must know more about these people. So he wrote to the European headquarters asking for additional information, for that he received at the exhibition was meagre. His request was fulfilled; books on the Word of Wisdom and other doctrines and practices of the Latter-day Saints were furnished him.

In acknowledging receipt of this literature, the Major Doctor

expressed his intention of thoroughly studying the material sent him, and then writing articles about us.

This is but one seed sown among the multitudes of people who witnessed and were impressed with last year's exhibit at Dresden. At least, the Latter-day Saints have one more friend, and from this one seed planted, a great work may grow.

WILLIAM D. CALLISTER

## THE HERITAGE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

*(Concluded from page 247)*

(Now I would like to call your attention to the words of the Saviour, as He spake to His disciples, shortly before His crucifixion, as recorded in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew. They came to Him, and they wanted to know something about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and His second coming. We are not interested, this afternoon, in what He had to say about the destruction of Jerusalem or the temple, but only now in the second coming of Christ. The Lord said :

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

So I say to you, my brethren and sisters, and to all who may hear my voice, we are living in the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. In the year 1836, ninety-four years ago, one of the ancient prophets stood before Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, and conferred upon them certain keys that had been promised to be revealed before the second coming of Christ. After he had given that authority unto these two young men, he said unto them: "By this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors." That was ninety-four years ago. Ninety-four years have passed. We are that much nearer the opening of that door and the coming of Christ.

I know that there are many, and even some among the Latter-day Saints, who are saying just as the Lord said they would say, "The Lord delayeth his coming." One man said: "It is impossible for Jesus Christ to come inside of three or four hundred years." But I say unto you, watch. I do not know when He is going to come. No man knows. Even the angels of heaven are in the dark in regard to that great truth. But this I know, that the signs that have been pointed out are here. The earth is full of calamity, of trouble. The hearts of men are failing them. We see the signs as we see the fig tree putting forth her leaves;

and knowing this time is near, it behooves me and it behooves you, and all men upon the face of the earth, to pay heed to the words of Christ to His Apostles and watch, for we know not the day nor the hour. But I tell you this, it shall come as a thief in the night, when many of us will not be ready for it.)

May we treasure up the word of the Lord and walk in holiness, and stand in holy places, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.—From an address delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., on Sunday, February 8th, 1931.

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## A GOD WHO SPEAKS

(NOTE: This is one of a new series of tracts which are being prepared for use in the European Missions, which are adapted to present-day conditions, with a view of answering religious questions foremost in the minds of this generation.—ED.)

### IS THERE A GOD?

The word "God" denotes the supreme Power behind all phenomena, an intelligent and purposeful Power. In the heart and inmost thought of every person, there is the assurance of the existence of such a supreme Power, of which all the operations of nature are but manifestations. Some people, few in number, who make loud talk but little else, try to prove that this Power is unintelligent, purposeless, and that the universe is ruled by chance. Atheists, so called, are mainly quibblers over man-made definitions of God; they are seldom deniers of God. Voltaire built a church to the unknown God. Were the question, "Is there a God?" put to the world, the answer, "Yes," would be almost unanimous.

### THREE EVIDENCES FOR GOD

The first evidence for the existence of an intelligent, purposeful God, is the inborn certainty of all humanity that there is such an over-ruling Power. Whatever receives such universal faith is rooted in truth. That is the teaching of the ages.

The ever-present operation of the law of cause and effect is another such convincing evidence. As far as man knows, there is no effect without cause; and the same cause always produces the same effect. That is the very corner-stone of sound thinking. Were it not so, burning coal might make water boil to-day and freeze to-morrow; witches and magicians would be the heroes of the age; and this would be an unsafe world. Behind every effect there is a cause; and every cause is but the effect of a greater cause. Therefore, there must be a cause behind all the causes and effects in the universe. This is the First Cause, whom we call God.

The orderliness of the universe is an equally convincing evidence of the existence of an intelligent Power behind all things. The heavenly bodies and the electrons are alike in obeying law. The infinitely great and the infinitely small move in obedience to law. We live under "a reign of law," surpassing the laws made by governments. Law and order are always expressions of intelligence. No exception to this statement has been found or can be conceived of by the mind of man. Whatever is left to chance moves in disorder and forms chaos. Since, therefore, all nature is orderly, obeying law, there must be back of it, directing it, a supreme Intelligence. This is God.

#### TWO OTHER EVIDENCES FOR GOD

The sober testimonies of numerous men, throughout the ages, that God has spoken to them, is another powerful testimony of the existence of an intelligent God. The prophets did not speak untruthfully, nor with clouded mentality; for they were sane, intelligent, honest men, and that which they did under divine guidance was beyond the power of unaided man. God did reveal Himself to the prophets of the ages.

Then there is the daily evidence of answers to man's spiritual outreachings. In sorrow and joy, in poverty and wealth, God-fearing men approach the Lord in earnest appeal, and they are answered, comforted, directed. Prayer has been justified as never before, in this day of radio, when a whispered word, carried by ether waves, may be heard anywhere and everywhere, providing only a suitable receiving instrument is found. The untold millions who have journeyed on earth have thus learned, through the operations of what has been called the Holy Spirit, of the reality of an intelligent Ruler of the universe. They have said, "Closer is He than breathing, nearer than hands or feet." "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."

#### THE PERSONALITY OF GOD

Our God, proved to exist by unanswerable evidence, cannot be fully understood by finite man, yet He must be comprehensible to man, to the extent of man's powers of understanding.

He must be conceived of as a person. He is not merely a force, a source of energy, like a waterfall, steam, electricity, or sunshine which may have measureless power, but does not possess intelligence. Forces need intelligent direction to become of use. Intelligent man cannot with self-respect worship the north wind. God is a person, infinitely beyond and above man, but nevertheless a person. He is of limited personal extent, though of unlimited personal power. The testimony of revelation confirms this view, for men have testified to having seen the Lord. It would be a sorry God, indeed, who, able to control the forces of

the universe, is incapable of being seen or of showing Himself. Man would feel no nearness to such a being.

#### THE NATURE OF GOD

“Intelligence is the glory of God.” Intelligence is compounded of knowledge and love, the latter sometimes called wisdom. The infinite knowledge of God enables Him to use the eternal forces and materials of the universe as He desires; His all-encompassing love directs His acts for the good of all living creatures.

Order, virtue, goodness proceed from the Lord. Their manifestations through the intricate maze of human wills, cannot always be understood, but their end products, peace and happiness, never fail the man who clings to that which he believes to be God-like. Intelligence is the glory of man, also.

#### THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

God is the creator of man; that is, He is the cause of man's existence on earth. But, He is something more. He is the Father of the human race—a literal, not courtesy Father. That sheds light on the secret of existence. Man is of the same race as God—a miniature God, if he will conduct himself properly! If that be so, of course he can dimly comprehend his Father; he can become measurably like Him; and grow increasingly towards His stature. The meaning of life then becomes more apparent.

#### THE PURPOSE OF EXISTENCE

Man is eternal and has always been eternal. He lived as a personal being, before he came upon earth. In the life before this, he was begotten the spiritual child of God. Thus is established the close relationship between God and man.

Man, the spiritual child of God, was sent upon earth, in accordance with his acceptance of God's plan, in forgetfulness of the past and subject to diverse earthly difficulties, to gain experience, for which he was ready, preparatory to his further progression along the road of intelligence. Indeed, man had earned the right to come upon earth. There was no chance, however involved human society seems, in man's coming to earth.

#### CONTINUOUS REVELATION

God would not forget His children, so placed. He has not forgotten them. From the days of the first man, He has taught humanity the truths necessary for advancing happiness. By the whisperings of the spirit, by special divine messengers to the prophets, by personal appearance to chosen ones, He has taught, counselled and directed His children on earth.

Time and again He has restored His truth, the Gospel, the divine plan for human happiness, when the race of men have departed

from it. He has led mankind, without interfering with the right of their free agency, and has urged them to follow.

He has spoken to men; He speaks to-day. It is an offence to the mind, trained in the glories of modern knowledge, to be told that God, the Director of the universe, cannot make His voice heard, cannot speak. It is absurd in this day of straight thinking to believe that the casual words written by John at the end of the Book of Revelations, before the present Bible was compiled, would forever silence God, the Father of mankind. Who would worship a deaf or a dumb God, or one who could not show Himself? Such worship is idolatry.

#### GOD HAS SPOKEN IN THIS AGE

In 1820, on an early spring day, God, the Father, with His Son Jesus Christ, appeared and spoke to a fourteen-year-old boy, Joseph Smith, who in search of truth was calling upon His Heavenly Father for aid. Other revelations and marvelous developments followed. The doctrines of Jesus Christ, crumpled beyond recognition through nearly two thousand years of man's philosophising, were restored in their purity; the authority of the Holy Priesthood, lost by misuse and apostasy, was conferred upon man; the Church of Christ, with all its gifts to man, was re-established under the name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

These events form the most notable episode of the nineteenth century; and their results are those, that accepted and used, will save the twentieth century from its sad misery.

The results of these events, and the nature of the work established, furnish ample proof of the truth of these events.

Upon this remarkable vision, a system of truth has been built for human good, the like of which is not found.

Will you investigate it?—W.

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### DIVINE LAW—THE SAVING GOSPEL

ELDER JAMES H. ANDERSON

OBEDIENCE to God is the path to human safety, specific and universal. The sovereign God is no friend of undisciplined living. In giving to mankind the Gospel of Jesus Christ, He placed within human reach the freedom of doing right and escaping the bondage of wrong doing. In such beneficent action, He represents moral order, and proposes to be obeyed if mankind would receive the benefits of His saving power.

That is a divine rule, applicable to the universe. Success in man's material progress is due to the inflexible truth that the physical universe is a law-abiding system. All scientific ad-

vancement depends on obedience to law. Obedience to God's law is the core of high character. We are touched by the gentleness, compassion and kindness of Jesus of Nazareth; but the core of His character was His willing and unswerving obedience to the sovereign God, "Not my will, but thine, be done." This obedience to divine law is a glorious Gospel. It dispels chaos and establishes order in the universe, past, present and future. It gives a sure and glorious victory over the demoralization of sin and death. Recognition of that truth is one of the most precious boons to humanity.

"Thou hast sent me into the world," said Jesus in His sublime prayer as He approached the trying moment of His life (John 17: 18). The opening Bible story in the life of the child Jesus was a heavenly announcement of His divine calling: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The Father "hath given him authority," says the sacred historian (John 5: 26, 27). The Divine Word, the Divine Law, were His unvarying guide, example and teaching.

Jesus recognized and upheld the divine commission of the one "sent from God" as His forerunner. To Him, John the Baptist was God's messenger in the preparatory Gospel. Jesus upheld, approved, confirmed the teachings of that messenger as set forth in the story of the Gospel in the New Testament, and in His life, proceeded therewith from the time of His baptism by the divinely commissioned John through all His mortal career and onward in His teachings, these continuing in guidance for His people to the end of time. It is the story of salvation for humanity—the only path divinely pointed out.

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## LEEDS DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MEMBERS and friends, alike, of the Leeds District, were spiritually built up and received further enlightenment on the saving principles of the Gospel at the three sessions of the District Conference held in Leeds on Sunday, March 29th.

Members of the Primaries, Sunday Schools, Mutual Improvement Associations, and Relief Societies of the District furnished a splendid program at the morning meeting, in which the purposes and aims of these auxiliary organizations were illustrated.

President A. William Lund forcibly proclaimed the authenticity of the Book of Mormon at the afternoon session. Sister Lund impressed upon her hearers the necessity of adhering to eternal principles, as interpreted in "Mormonism," as a means of obtaining salvation.

President Lund, at the evening meeting, related some of the tribulations of the Saints, and explained how they, with the help of the Lord, had been able to endure, grow and increase.

Several of the traveling Elders gave brief addresses at the afternoon and evening services, on suitable Gospel themes.

Beautiful musical selections, rendered between speakers, contributed much to the spirit of the Conference.

Mission President and Sister A. William Lund, Elder William Kenneth Lund, Sister Gwen Lund, and Elder G. Dwight Wakefield attended, representing the Mission Office; the traveling missionaries present were: President Bernard P. Brockbank, and Elders William Bailey, Elwood A. Gee, Fay E. Bates, Joseph D. McAllister, Noel T. Stoddard, Wendell W. Taylor, David Taylor, Elmo H. Lund, Dan L. Frodsham, Donald K. Ipson and Cyril Linford, all of the Leeds District; and President Gordon B. Taylor and Elder Clifford L. Ashton, of the Liverpool District.

Nearly three hundred people, mostly non-members of the Church, were present at an illustrated lecture given by Elder G. Dwight Wakefield on the Saturday evening preceding the Conference.

ELDER ELMO H. LUND, District Clerk.

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## FROM THE MISSION FIELD

**Doings in Districts:** *Manchester*—A splendid program consisting of songs, recitations, sketches, and a play by the children, given under the auspices of the Rochdale Branch M. I. A. on March 21st, proved enjoyable and entertaining to a large group of friends and members of the Church. Refreshments were served.

A house party was given on March 27th at the home of Mrs. Davis for the purpose of raising funds for the auxiliary organizations of the Rochdale Branch.

*Newcastle*—In commemoration of the organization of the Relief Society, a pea and pie supper was given on Tuesday, March 17th, by the Middlesbrough Branch Relief Society.

The Bee-Hive girls of the Shildon Branch sponsored a lively social on March 28th. A varied program, which included a one-act play, was followed by a pea and pie supper.

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BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

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